

DATE November 2, 1965

7:30 PM

CITY Washington, DC

DISCUSS CIA

CALLER: "Well, hey, listen, have you been reading the series in the Washington Post about our man in the Kremlin?"

BOB RAYFORD: "I've been sort of glancing over it, looking at it, yes. I started -- I think it started Sunday, with the second one coming up today. And it's been a very interesting thing -- I prefer to read these things in book form as they're put together, you know."

CALLER: "I just wanted, really -- I want to know your opinion, or if you have an opinion, you know, as to whether you believe these things or think it's a lot of propaganda, or if you think it's true."

RAYFORD: "I would hate to say it's propaganda -- I would hate to say it's propaganda. Let me say that from what I have read, I would accept a good bit of it with a grain of salt."

CALLER: "It's sort of hard for me to believe that a man, you know, with such a high position in the Russian Army would do such a thing. Jesus, I'd hate to think that we have American generals doing the same thing as the Communists."

RAYFORD: "Well, this does make the story a bit incredulous. I think it does. It just sort of makes you wonder about them. But I don't know. There's so much intrigue going on, so much intrigue that's been generated by the CIA and the FBI. They got the FBI watching the CIA down in the -- in Latin America these days."

CALLER: "Well, that's the way it should be."

RAYFORD: "(laughs) Oh, you think it should be."

CALLER: "The CIA seems to bungle everything, you know."

RAYFORD: "Well, you don't know. Let's hand it to the CIA, just a little bit, because when the CIA really comes up with a great -- with a grand coup, you know, when they come up with something great, nobody knows about it. It's only when they botch it up."

CALLER: "That's probably true."

RAYFORD: "But I have heard people say that the most thankless task a person could have is to work with the CIA."

"I remember a couple of years ago, when I was kind of at wits end, when I went out to the B.P.R. and turned off and went to the CIA and told them, 'Okay, here I am.' You know, I'm a snake-eater, and we'll go along and see if we can't get with the CIA. And I met a very clerical sort of man in the personnel department out there. I filled out a couple of hundred cards and I heard from him. Maybe they're still running the check on me. This has been three years ago. But I was all gung ho to go with the CIA."

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I didn't care about my own neck, you know. Let it get shot off. I didn't care. I was offering my life. This was when John F. Kennedy was making his statements that were so indelible on people of our age, 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.' And I was ready to have them, you know, put me out in the jungles. Let me go. I would spy for them. I would do anything. And I went out to the CIA, and I got the shortest shrift I have ever gotten from any organization anywhere. They ignored me. They totally ignored me. They said, 'Well, he's nutty in the first place. We don't want him.'"

CALLER: "Well, listen, would you have taken the polygraph test?"

RAYFORD: "No."

CALLER: "I understand you have to before you can go to work out there."

RAYFORD: "Oh, is that right? Well, maybe, at that stage of the game, I probably would."

CALLER: "Yeah, that's a terrible thing."

RAYFORD: "I probably would take it. What's this one they've got going about -- you know, where they ask you all sorts of questions about your sex life?"

CALLER: (Laughs).

RAYFORD: "Only problem is, I wish they had given it to me, because I would have probably ruined the curve."

RAYFORD: "Hello, TOP Nightline."

CALLER: "Hello, sir. I'd like to comment on some of the things before I get into the main reason I called you."

"One, you were kidding about the newscaster and what stress he was under. I'd like to kid him about the fact he was taking the candidates in ascending order; then he went down the list to first to fifth."

"But more than that, lately you mentioned the FBI keeping an eye on the CIA. The FBI has had the jurisdiction under organization for external counter espionage, or whatever you want to call it, for Latin America since the '30's. And, actually, it's the CIA who's moving in on them. It used to be quite a fight to win the OSS and the FBI about Latin America."

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